

REMARKS

Claims 51-67, 69-72, and 74-85 were pending in this application at the time the present Office Action was mailed, with claims 56, 75, and 78-83 withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claims 52, 53, 57, 62, 64, 66, 67, 70, 76-78, 84, and 85 have been amended. More specifically, claims 52, 53, 57, 70, 76, 78, 84, and 85 have been amended to clarify certain aspects of these claims. Claim 66 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the features of the corresponding base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 64 and 67 have been amended solely to change the dependencies of these claims, and claims 62 and 77 have been amended solely to correct the antecedent basis of certain features of these claims. Claim 65 has been cancelled without prejudice to pursuing this claim in a continuation, divisional, reissue, or other application. Accordingly, claims 51-64, 66, 67, 69-72, and 74-85 remain pending, with claims 56, 75, and 78-83 withdrawn.

In the non-final Office Action mailed August 2, 2006, all of the pending claims were rejected. More specifically, the status of this application in light of the Office Action is as follows:

(A) Claims 62 and 77 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite;

(B) Claims 51-55, 57-62, 69-72, 74, 76, 77, 84, and 85 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,386,343 to Pao ("Pao");

(C) Claims 64, 65, and 67 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,707,680 to Schaper ("Schaper"); and

(D) Claim 66 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the claim from which it depends.

The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for engaging in a telephone conference with Aaron Poledna on November 8, 2006 to discuss the present Office Action, the Pao and Schaper references, and the pending claims. The applicant requests that this paper constitute the applicant's Interview Summary. If the Examiner notices any deficiencies with this

paper in this regard, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to correct such deficiencies.

The following remarks summarize and expand upon the results of the November 8th telephone conference, and they also reflect the agreements reached between the undersigned attorney and the Examiner during the telephone conference. For example, the following remarks reflect the Examiner's acknowledgement that amending claim 53 to clarify that the support member has a generally uniform cross-sectional shape across a mounting region of the support member would distinguish the claim over Pao. Claim 53 has been so amended and, accordingly, the Section 102 rejection of claim 53 should be withdrawn. The Examiner also agreed that the Section 112 rejection of claims 62 and 77 should be withdrawn.

As a preliminary matter, the present Office Action did not indicate the status of claims 61 and 66. During the November 8th telephone conference, the Examiner noted that claim 61 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pao, and claim 66 is allowable if rewritten in independent form.

A. Response to the Section 112 Rejection of Claims 62 and 77

Claims 62 and 77 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. More specifically, the Office Action asserts that the term “the microelectronic substrate” in claims 62 and 77 lacks antecedent basis. During the November 8th telephone conference, the Examiner agreed that proposed amendments to claims 62 and 77 would overcome the Section 112 rejection. Claims 62 and 77 have been so amended and, accordingly, the Section 112 rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

B. Response to Section 102 Rejection of Claims 51-55, 57-62, 69-72, 74, 76, 77, 84, and 85 (Pao)

Claims 51-55, 57-62, 69-72, 74, 76, 77, 84, and 85 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pao. As stated above, the Examiner acknowledged during the November 8th telephone conference that Pao cannot support a Section 102 rejection of independent claim 53 and claims depending therefrom. For example, the Examiner acknowledged that Pao does not appear to disclose or suggest a support member having a

generally uniform cross-sectional shape across the portion of the support member to which the packaged microelectronic devices are aligned or attached. Rather, the printed wiring board 10 of Pao includes a plurality of recesses or openings 16 in an upper surface 12 that extend at least partially through the wiring board 10. In the embodiment illustrated in Figures 1-3 of Pao, for example, the recesses 16 extend completely through the wiring board 10. Because Pao fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 53, and in light of the agreements reached during the November 8th telephone conference, the Section 102 rejection of claim 53 and the claims depending therefrom (claims 51, 54, and 55) should be withdrawn.

Independent claims 52, 57, 70, 76, 84, and 85 have been amended in a manner generally similar to that described above with reference to claim 53. Accordingly, the Section 102 rejection of claims 52, 57, 70, 76, 84, and 85 should be withdrawn.

Claims 58-62, 71, 72, 74, and 77 are allowable as depending from allowable base claims 57, 70, and 76, and also because of the additional features of these dependent claims. Accordingly, the Section 102 rejection of claims 58-62, 71, 72, 74, and 77 should be withdrawn.

C. Response to the Section 102 Rejection of Claims 64, 65, and 67 (Schaper)

Claims 64, 65, and 67 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schaper. Claim 65 has been cancelled and, accordingly, the rejection of this claim is now moot. Claims 64 and 67 have been amended to depend from base claim 66. As discussed below, claim 66 is allowable. Accordingly, claims 64 and 67 are allowable for at least the reason that base claim 66 is allowable, and for the additional features of these dependent claims. Therefore, the Section 102 rejection of claims 64 and 67 should be withdrawn.

D. Response to the Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

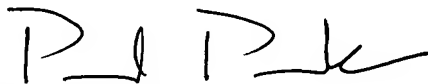
The applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating during the November 8th telephone conference that claim 66 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. More specifically, during the November 8th telephone conference, the Examiner acknowledged that Figure 1 of Schaper does not appear to disclose or suggest a gap between the circuit device 120 and the surface applied passive (SAP)

device 126. Claim 66 has been rewritten in the stated form and, accordingly, is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the applied art. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and a mailing of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call Aaron Poledna at (206) 359-3982.

Respectfully submitted,
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